

ACORN

VII. 3



The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

<i>President:</i>	Alice King Sculthorpe
<i>Immediate Past President:</i>	W. J. Moffet
<i>1st Vice-President:</i>	Howard Walker
<i>2nd Vice-President:</i>	Nicholas Hill
<i>3rd Vice-President:</i>	Donna Baker
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Robert MacMillan
<i>Secretary:</i>	Miss Isabel Coulthard

Members-at-Large. Peter John Stokes, John H. Reckett

ACORN VII - 3

WINTER 1982

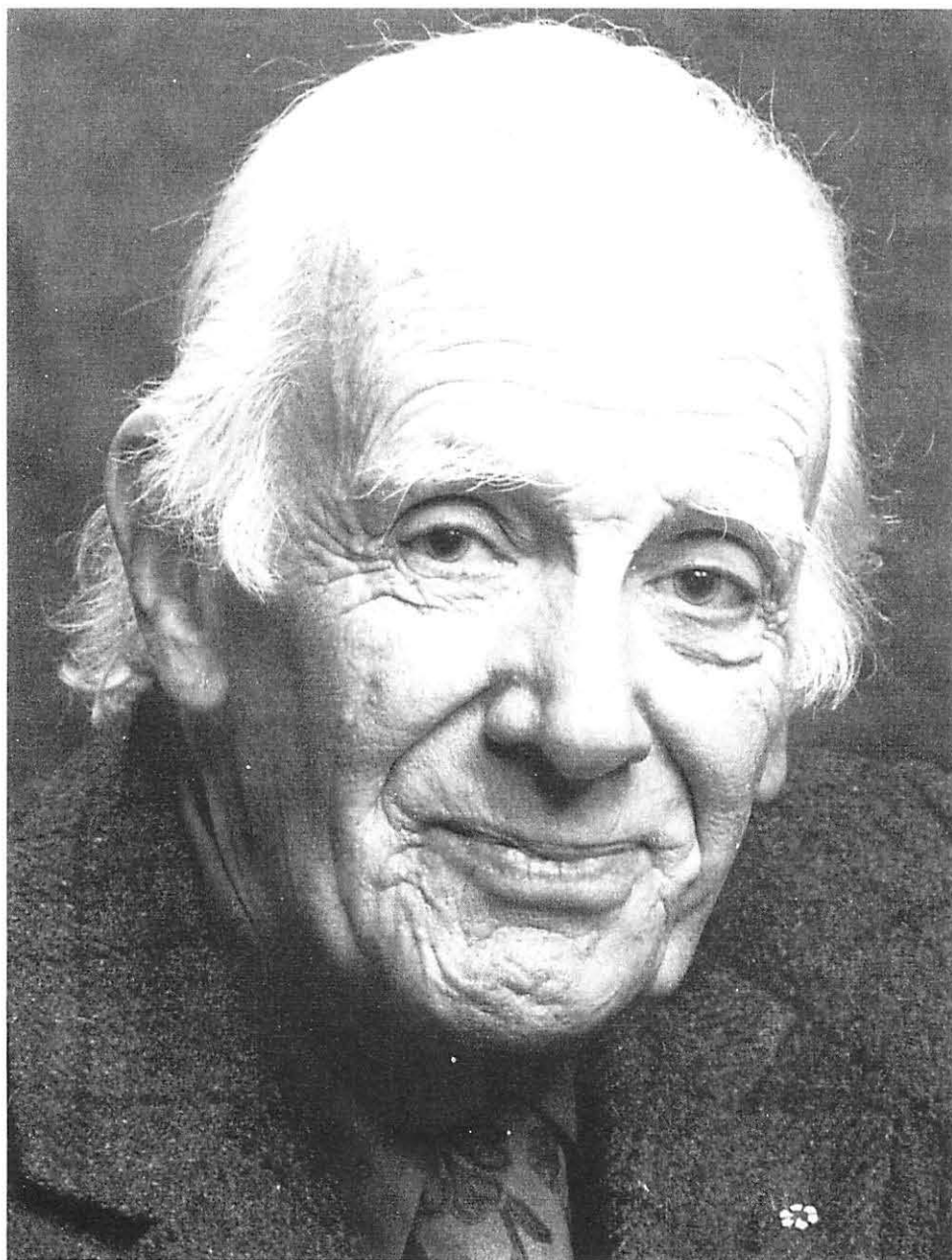
The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario R Newsletter

EDITORIAL STAFF

<i>Editor-in-Chief:</i>	Marion Walker Garland, 86 Augusta St., Port Hope, Ont.
<i>Editors:</i>	Jane Staunton, Port Hope Tanny Wells, Toronto Region William D. King, Hamilton-Niagara Lucille Douglas, Heritage Cambridge Audrey Scott, Brant County Mary-Jane Eldridge, London Region Kay Reid, Huron County Bob Rowell, North Waterloo Region
<i>Contributing Editor:</i>	Peter John Stokes

The Cover

What is this building? Have you seen its likeness before? And where could it possibly be? Just a hint — before you turn to the back page — it is in Ontario, it was constructed in the 19th century, it is historic and, methinks, architecturally significant.



ERIC ROSS ARTHUR 1898-1982

The originator of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Eric Ross Arthur, died while sitting in a wheel chair waiting for an x-ray in a Toronto hospital on November the first at the age of 84. He may be dead, but his name during his life was connected with so many enduring things that it may last as long as Canada. His charm, his voice, his anecdotes, his lectures, even his handwriting will be remembered by everyone who knew him. His books, his researches, the buildings he worked to preserve are his monuments — so it is hoped will be The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

Obituaries of Eric Arthur have appeared in publications larger than that of "The ACORN". These have at least outlined his achievements and touched on aspects of his character. It is appropriate for The ACORN to concentrate on his work for the conserving of our architectural heritage, but his influence was far wider. He won medals for contemporary architectural design, managed the International competition to pick the architect for Toronto's City Hall, stimulated and frightened two generations of architectural students at the University of Toronto, fought in two world wars, continually excited pressure at the most effective pressure points on behalf of good civic design, carried on warm correspondence with hundreds of friends, enraptured scores of female admirers, suffered no male fool gladly, caught — so he said — tons of fish, was honoured by an alphabet of letters after his name including Canada's highest C.C., endured tragedies and disappointments stoically, and watched his life unfold with a look and an attitude which appeared to be perpetually quizzical.

He arrived in Ontario with his charming wife, Doris, both brilliant architectural graduates from the University of Liverpool in 1924 to become a professor at the University of Toronto. He was a New Zealander, and, though it is hard to believe that the architectural appreciation of those islanders could have compared with that of Ontario, Eric's first reaction was that we were unconscious of our heritage. He set out at once to photograph and study our early buildings — this despite the fact that he would never drive a car. Before even the A.C.O. was formally "proposed" he was able to list 190 "buildings already photographed and measured." He did not do all the photographing and measuring himself. Architectural students at that time were required to learn how to "measure up" buildings as a technical skill. He persuaded them, if that is the proper word, to measure up older buildings of which he approved. In this way the Public Archives of Ontario have a vast store of drawings, most of which indicate the bathrooms and partitioning of houses as they existed in the nineteen twenties and thirties, but it is nevertheless, a valuable, in fact, our only inventory.

One of Eric's great abilities was to get people to follow him. He was a sort of Pied Piper, but rather than collect a string of bourgeois children as that mythical character did, he collected as followers the Best People. Every member of the A.C.O. should read with awe the names and titles of those who applied for their charter on February the first, 1933, to the Hon, George Challies, Provincial Secretary — an ambassador, two bishops, two university presidents, several honourables including one right honourable, one knight, a pride of Q.Cs, a spate of merchant princes and even the Assistant Provincial Secretary to whose boss the application was made.

It was typical of Eric's humour to promote the name "Conservancy", a logical name for our purposes, but the only conservancy I think he knew at the time was the Thames Conservancy whose most notable job is the care of the Queen's Swans.

Almost at once he started writing and encouraging others to do so with him. There were no books, scarcely an article, published in Ontario in the 1920s dealing with Provincial architecture. In fact, I can say without blushing that the first hard cover book on the Architecture of Upper Canada was not published until 1963. He was the editor of the Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada from its conception to its lamented demise. With Verschoyle Blake he had printed for the Conservancy and explorers a list of buildings of interest which has become a great rarity. Pamphlets began appearing from the U of T Press written by or co-authored with Eric Arthur — *"Old Buildings in Ontario"*, *"St. Andrews on the Lake"*, *"18th and 19th Century Buildings in Ontario"*, *"Moose Factory"*, *"Old Forts in U.C."*, *"Buildings by the Sea"*. His best known hard cover was *"No Mean City"* (1964), not far behind was *"The Barn, a Vanishing Landmark"* (1972), and less satisfactory *"From Front Street to Queen's Park"* (1979). About two weeks before he died there appeared *"Iron — Cast and Wrought Iron in Canada from the 17th Century to the Present"*, written with Thomas Ritchie. His letters to the *Globe and Mail* make a pamphlet in

themselves. Among the unpublished material he left behind is an unfinished work on funeral practices and cemeteries, and another on the Beaches area of Toronto.

The restored and refurbished buildings with which his name will be closely linked are among others University College, Enoch Turner School, The City Hall and Union Station, all in Toronto. He was a crusader in each success or failure of the Conservancy, and to many it seemed that he actually discovered Niagara-on-the-Lake which had been known previously only to well-to-do Americans.

His death has brought out one good obituary from which in conclusion I excerpt a final paragraph. A quotation on him by June Callwood: "He gave you jewels — perfectly told stories. My lasting-forever impression is his deep courtesy. He was incapable of unkindness or gaucheries because of the pureness of his interest. He enjoyed excellence. He and I would stroll along and he would see a manhole cover with a design on it. "There is another at the corner of Adelaide and Queen" he'd say. I never see a manhole without thinking of him."

Anthony Adamson



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Given at Annual Meeting)

It seems incredible that a year has passed since the last annual meeting. We have had a busy year, Last February the advisory board was reorganized and at a dinner meeting of its members at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth Walker, its objectives and procedures were clarified. Since then this board has been efficiently chaired by Wentworth Walker, from whom you will hear shortly. This is a very important segment of the Architectural Conservancy's activities and we are most grateful to all those who gave their time to this work.

As most of you know, Barnum House, Grafton, was purchased in 1935 by the A.C.O. as it was deteriorating badly. The drawing of Barnum House is on our letterhead and has become a symbol of what our organization stands for and what it hopes to accomplish. This building was subsequently sold to the Township of Haldimand with a covenant registered on title, that the house could not be modified or sold without our permission. The Ontario Heritage Foundation purchased Barnum House and plans have already started for its restoration. After many meetings and much correspondence The Foundation gave us an agreement registered on title that if Barnum House is ever to be sold or demolished, the A.C.O. will have the opportunity to buy it at fair market value; in return we gave them a quit claim to our original covenant. We also have an agreement with the Ontario Heritage Foundation that we will be kept informed of the planning progress and the Conservancy shall have the opportunity to present comments and recommendations to the Foundation committees and board.

As you realize the council has had to raise the allotment required from each branch in order to cover its expenses. We are very frugal at Council, but there are some costs we just cannot avoid. Our office rent is very low. the chore of preparing the ACORN for mailing and the actual mailing is done for us by the Port Hope branch in order to avoid secretarial costs. However, the ACORN does cost money to publish and the postage is now 45¢ a copy. Another yearly expense is our auditor's fee. I suppose our greatest single cost increase is postage. You must all be suffering from the same problem and therefore realize that it has drastically changed our budget.

The council met 12 times and only once when the snow was falling fast did we not have a quorum. The August council meeting was held in Port Hope and after the meeting we drove around the town looking at the buildings that have been restored, buildings in the process of being restored and some that we hope to be able to restore.

Our past-president, Bill Moffet, and I have been on a committee drawn from the heritage groups in the province to search for a Heritage House. The chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, John White, called these groups together to discuss the possibility of acquiring a Heritage building and making space available to all these groups in order to share services and expenses. After looking at several properties, it was

decided to have a feasibility study done to see if indeed it is an economically advisable project. The first draft of this study has just been circulated.

In the spring my husband and I went on a most interesting bus tour of stone houses in the area around Cambridge organized by the Cambridge branch. The next day we enjoyed London's annual Geranium Tour where a potted geranium indicated the buildings on tour. These buildings are predominantly late Victorian and Edwardian which gives the core of the city a very different aspect from the street scene I see every day in Port Hope.

In August the Brantford Branch of the Architectural Conservancy made a valiant effort to save its central school. I attended a council meeting to support their effort. Unfortunately it was another case where the persons in control had already made their decision and would not listen to reason. They were in such a hurry to demolish the building that it looked as if they knew they were being unwise and unreasonable and the only way to be sure that no one would be able to re-think the issue was to have no building.

Recently I represented Ontario at the Heritage Canada conference and annual meeting in Regina. It was stimulating to talk to people from all over Canada who are also interested in preservation. The indications are that although the laws protecting our valuable buildings are still too weak, interest everywhere is growing as more people become aware of their heritage buildings.

The Branches are each successfully working in their own way in their areas. The Architectural Conservancy is a particularly interesting organization because the branch activities are so diversified. I hope in the next year to visit each branch to discuss how the council can be of greater benefit to them.

Next year we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. It should be an exciting year. We have several plans to celebrate our Fiftieth Year. The first is two bus trips — four days to southwestern Ontario and in a month or six weeks after that trip another four days in Eastern Ontario led by Peter John Stokes. We shall try to fix these dates soon so you may plan ahead. We hope to stop at local inns or maybe in some places, bed and breakfast in interesting houses. With Peter Stokes leading these trips, it should be great fun as well as informative.

Our other plan to celebrate our 50th is our Annual General meeting next year. We hope to make it a really exciting event, a day to remember. You will hear more of these plans in the coming months.

I have enjoyed being your president for the past year and look forward to a challenging year ahead.

The regular members of council have been most supportive and I do appreciate their constant attendance. I feel it is imperative that we have representation from all branches at the council meetings if we are to function as a positive group. It is very important to work as a unified force if we wish our voice to be heard.

I should like especially to thank our secretary, Margaret Wulff, for her initiative and hard work. It is always a pleasure to work with her.

I should like this opportunity to thank my unofficial advisors, Howard Walker, and Wentworth Walker, for their constant help and wise counsel. I cannot express how grateful I am for their support.

NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

from the Branches

PORT HOPE

Fall Fair

This year, the Port Hope Branch manned an A.C.O. booth for the first time. Our main attraction was a fabulous six foot quilted hanging made by House Tour Chairman Betty Kerr and depicting many of Port Hope's fine old buildings and harbour and river scenes. It is truly a marvellous creation.

Perhaps if other Branches boast talented industrious quilters, each Branch could produce their own hanging and we could have a joint display. At our booth we distributed our locally produced "*Walk Today With Yesterday*" pamphlets, membership brochures, ACORNs, and a photograph display of Port Hope and Fall Fair scenes from the last century. A "Baffling

Photo Contest" attracted much attention. This was made up of 19th and early 20th century photographs of houses or places in Port Hope that were very difficult to identify due to changes, additions, widened streets, development, etc. Our three winners claimed respectively a House Tour ticket, a book of quilt raffle tickets, and a package of A.C.O. hasty-notes. We felt that the exposure for the A.C.O. was well worth the effort and energy expended carting trestles and boards and boxes and photograph displays to and from the Fairgrounds!

Annual Historic House Tour

The weather for Port Hope's Annual Historic House Tour could not have been improved upon if custom ordered. It was unseasonably warm, sunny, and dry and homeowners' nightmarish visions of muddy tracks across acres of carpet and piles of dripping umbrellas and galoshes at the front door fled with the warm breeze. In fact, our tour proved so popular this year — over 1600 tickets sold — that there were unprecedented lineups at some of the houses, but no one seemed to mind waiting in the sun gazing about them at the autumn gardens and neighbouring houses.

The daytime tour this year was again a mix of town and country houses and one commercial building. The houses open in town were 87 Augusta Street owned by Mr. and Mrs. Grant Farwell, 92 Augusta owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lay, 150 Dorset Street owned by Mrs. H. Horn, and the fully restored St. Lawrence Hall, formerly a hotel on Walton Street. The houses in the country were both in the Canton area, just five miles north of Port Hope; Batterwood House owned by Mr. and Mrs. David Hadden and built for former Governor-General Vincent Massey,



BOARD AND BATTEN BARN, Dorset Street

Before conversion (credit Jane Staunton) This board and batten barn was part of the original estate of Idalia. It has been recently moved to this location. Note the round headed tops of the boards.

and Garthstone, a stone cottage owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Staunton.

An additional evening tour was added to the ticket this year and proved to be very popular. Over seven hundred people visited the four houses and one church featured. Three of the houses are on King Street and are owned by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Long, Mrs. Vincent Thomas, and Mr. and Mrs. D. Kershaw. (This last house, at 8 King Street, was also featured in *City and Country Home* magazine's premier issue last month.) Historic St. Mark's Church (1822), also on King Street, as open to the public, and around the corner from King Street, at 59 Francis Street, Mr. and Mrs. J. Richardson's home was opened for viewing. Each house on the evening tour had a specially made old-fashioned street lamp at the entrance and the interiors were lit by candles or subdued lighting.



After conversion (credit Donna Fairey, James Publishing Co.)

After the candlelight tour Marion Walker Garland gave a lecture on Historic Port Hope and Its Architectural Styles. A full house enjoyed the talk, brought to life by the speaker's humour and wit. Mrs. Garland's presentation included slides shown by Mr. Pierre St. Laurent, with examples of certain styles, windows, dentals and doors. A talk such as this should be an integral part of the annual house tour.

Every house, on both the daytime and evening tour, boasted a beautiful flower arrangement suitable to the era and style of the house and generously provided by the Port Hope Horticultural Society.

Lunch and tea were served at Batterwood Hall and the St. Lawrence Hall respectively, and were fully booked well in advance of the tour date. They provided welcome respite for many hundreds of hungry and foot-weary house tourists. An extremely attractive memento of the day was provided by the eye-catching House Tour placemats specially designed

by local artist Kathryn McHolm, and it was noted that almost more of these found their way into purses rather than under plates of sandwiches or cups of tea!

Remember that our Historic House Tour is held annually on the first Saturday of October — we're already planning which houses to include next year!

Quilt Raffle

The blue double-bed sized quilt, designed and hand-sewn by the Port Britain Quilters, was raffled off at St. Mark's Church on the evening of the House Tour. The lucky winner is Dr. Anne Tesluck of Port Hope. The quilt raffle was a fund-raising event chaired by Mel Chapple and netted the Branch some welcome dollars for our Port Hope Heritage Fund earmarked for the restoration and preservation particularly of Walton Street.

Victoria College Alumni

The alumni of Victoria College, on a bus tour of the district, were given a tour of Port Hope by Marion Garland. Starting at Greenwood Towers, the members were shown a few of the more interesting houses and buildings of the town.

Historical Bus Tour

On Tuesday, November 9th the Canadian Women's Club, Toronto, visited Port Hope and enjoyed a guided bus tour of the town given by Jane Staunton. Architectural highlights of the town were pointed out and the history of Port Hope, incorporated in 1834, was given. Tours such as this are welcomed and are given by such well-versed members of the A.C.O. as A. K. Sculthorpe and Marion Garland. Tours can be arranged either directly through the Port Hope Branch or through the Port Hope Chamber of Commerce, 25 Queen St., Port Hope. There is a nominal charge per person per hour.

Olde Tyme Christmas

The Port Hope Branch will be hosting the Grand Winter Ball, part of the town's annual Olde Tyme Christmas festivities, this year. The Ball, always a popular event and attended by guests decked out in full old-fashioned regalia, will be held on December 18th at Penryn Park. For more information or to reserve tickets, please contact Ball Chairman Jane Staunton, R.R. #1, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3V5. Tel. 416-753-2302. Tickets will be limited so plan early. Come and spend the day and see Port Hope decorated in old-fashioned finery. Proceeds from the Ball will go to the Port Hope Heritage Fund.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 12th at Greenwood Tower Inn, Port Hope. A very good-sized crowd attended the meeting which was called to order by President Nancy Redner. The incoming Executive for 1982-83 was elected. They are: President: Nancy Redner, Past President: Anita Blackwood, Vice President: Jane Staunton, Treasurer: Kay Wilson, Secretary: Cathy Moore, Fundraising Chairman: A. K. Sculthorpe, Legal Counsel: Wilfred Day, Vice-Chairman Fund-Raising: Helen Bogayay, Publicity and Promotion: McDonald Robertson, Michael Worek. House Tour Chairman: Betty Kerr, Calendar Chairman: Tom Long, Membership Chairman: Jane Staunton, Vice-Chairman Membership: Frankie Liberty, Catering Chairman: Charm Dennys, LACAC Representative: Mel Chapple, Members-at-Large: Don Scott, Ian McDonald, Lynn Brown, Shirley Vernon. Advisory Committee: Anita Blackwood, A. K. Sculthorpe, Susan Thomas, Marion Walker Garland, Roger Kirkpatrick, Paul Wilson, Nancy Redner (ex-officio). Secretary: Cathy Moore, Honourary Member: Peter John Stokes. Newsletter Editor: Anita Blackwood, Port Hope Branch Editor ACORN: Jane Staunton.

In her President's address, Mrs. Redner reviewed the year's events, including highlights from the monthly program, fund-raising activities such as the Beer Gardens at the annual Fanny in the Ganny canoe race, the Midsummer's Eve Dance, the quilt raffle, and, of course, the recent most successful Historic House Tour. A great round of applause met the announcement that the House Tour had netted over \$10,000 for the branch this year.

A brainstorming session held by the Executive in June was reviewed by President Redner. Out of this session came the branch's five-year plan which she explained. Implementing the Port Hope Heritage Fund with policies to guide it is one of the branch's immediate goals and Mrs. Redner explained the uses to which the fund will be put.

President Redner reported that the future for Port Hope's limestone C.N. station is looking positively rosy now. C.N. has recently approved the engineering drawings required and will contribute the \$80,000 formerly ear-marked for the demolition and replacement costs toward the restoration of the station. This was great news for everybody but particularly for the committee consisting of representatives from the A.C.O., LACAC, the town, Heritage Canada, Ontario Heritage, and C.N. who have been meeting for months in an effort to save the station. Another round of applause met the news that Eldorado Limited contributed \$1500. towards the cost of the engineering drawings required by C.N.

An update on the restoration work of 25-27 Walton

Street, the first recipient of the Port Hope Heritage Fund was given. Architectural drawings were displayed and attracted much attention. Building owner, Clay Benson, was present to answer any queries.

The branch's many plans for the future were outlined. Some of the activities mentioned by Mrs. Redner were the establishment of permanent quarters for the A.C.O. in the 1870 water tower at Greenwood Tower Inn, the production of an A.C.O. calendar using 19th century photographs from the Long family collection, renewal of the downtown paint scheme, and the plaquing of historical buildings.

New Architectural Term

Great fascination and curiosity were elicited by the "two stone yiuuars" described on the House Tour Ticket as serving as the entrance to Garthstone, one of the country houses on display. A certain modest reticence was shown by questioners, since no one wants to display his or her architectural ignorance to all and sundry. But before the countryside abounds with newly-discovered stone yiuuars, we should point out that this mysterious architectural term is nothing more esoteric than a typographical error for "stone pillars."

TORONTO REGION

The new season is off to a good start. On September 12 the branch organized a Sunday afternoon streetcar tour on the 1921 Peter Witt Streetcar. The hour-long tour included a commentary on the buildings along the route. The turnout was sufficient for three tours.

We have been most fortunate in obtaining a permanent meeting place. All meetings this year will take place in the Hydro Auditorium. The following dates have been set for meetings: Thurs., Oct. 21, Tues., Nov. 16, Sun., Jan. 23, Wed., Feb. 16, Wed., March 16, Wed., April 20.

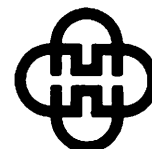
The October 21 meeting will, of course, have taken place before this is published. The speaker will be William Dendy. The subject "Bank Architecture in Canada" — a Blessed Sense of Excess.

On Tuesday, November 16, Geoff Hunt will be the speaker — his subject, John M. Lyle, Architect — "Towards a Canadian Architecture."

The Christmas reception will be held on Sunday, December 15, from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the Heliconian Club, Hazelton Ave., Yorkville.

The Heliconian Club was founded in 1909, at the instigation of a musician, Mary Hewitt Smart, to provide a meeting place for women in the arts. Its name was suggested by Professor Goldwin Smith — whose idea was either Mount Helicon, home of the fabled

muses, or the Heliconian Club. The building which the club now occupies has a lengthy history also. It was erected in 1875 as a small board and batten church in a modest version of the Gothic Revival style. The accoustical properties and the excellence of proportion have tempted some architectural historians to suspect that the design was the work of a very competent architect, perhaps a student of Kivas Tully. When the congregation outgrew its original space, and erected a brick structure at the corner of Hazelton Avenue and Scollard Street, the building was sold to the Painters' Union and renamed Hazelton Hall. By 1923 it had fallen into disrepair and bore a large "for sale" sign across its façade. This was brought to the attention of the executive and members by Mrs. J. E. Elliott, a dedicated Heliconian. Meetings of the Heliconian Club had been held in a series of tea rooms with the dream of eventually a permanent home. The Painters' Union were asking eighty thousand dollars, and the estimate for renovation brought this up to what seemed an astronomical amount. Fortunately, the Painters were willing to accept two thousand dollars as a down payment. After a mammoth fund-raising bazaar, the dream became a reality. The membership of the Heliconian Club during the seventy-five years of its history has included the names of the majority of the women in the arts in Toronto and of many women practising the arts in Canada.



HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Heritage Cambridge was held on Wednesday, October 20th, in the Cambridge City Hall Council Chambers. It was well attended, with the Mayor and several City Councillors present. A most interesting speech was given by Mr. D. A. R. Macintosh, who has recently come to Cambridge as co-ordinator of the Main Street Project. This project is under the joint sponsorship of the Heritage Canada Foundation, the City of Cambridge, and the Downtown Business Improvement Association. Mr. Macintosh has had extensive project experience including Historical Consultancies, Restoration Landscape Architect, and landscape and streetscape design for industrial and residential projects. His ideas, energy, and knowledge will do much to forward the development of a vibrant Main Street Area, conscious of the value, material as well as aesthetic, of its heritage elements. It is felt that the experience gained in the central business area can later be used in other parts of the city. A film showing the successful program undertaken in Perth, Ontario, was also presented.

A feature of the meeting was the display of the original map of the town of Galt, County of Waterloo compiled for the Corporation by James Pollock, Provincial Land Surveyor, in 1867. Mr. Fred Gaskin bought this map some time ago and presented it to Heritage Cambridge. It has been placed permanently with the Archives of Ontario, where full restoration work has been completed. The map is now in beautiful condition. The warmest thanks of Heritage Cambridge were expressed to Mr. Gaskin.

The main business of the meeting was the election of officers and directors for the coming year. The new Board consists of the following: President: Cynthia Dobbie, Past President: Donald McKay, Vice President: Tom Ritson, Treasurer: David Hopps, Secretary: Lucille Douglas, and Directors: John Bell, Kay Caldwell, John Clare, Ross Grant, Katherine Hebblethwaite, Betty Law, Judi Marr, Gerry Musselman, Joy Rayner, Pat Rosebrugh, Harry Rossdeutscher, Joanne Smart.

The meeting ended with a most enjoyable social interlude, with wine and cheese being served.

BRANT COUNTY

Spring Workshop

Robert Clow was the speaker at a spring workshop. Slides of old mills throughout Ontario provided material for study. Many of the old mills are in the process of being restored. Many, such as the Mill in Galt, have been turned into restaurants. Some, such as the Backus Mill, are the site of pioneer study areas with activities for the whole family. Apps Mill, site of the workshop is itself a campsite and nature study area.

Walking Tours

The Branch spring program was enhanced by walking tours of the East Ward area in Brantford. For the first time, the tours were held on successive Sunday afternoons, and were preceded by slide shows of houses to be seen on the tours. Because of the slides, the two rainy afternoons were not wasted!

Housing in the area dates mainly from 1879 to 1920, and covers most of the style elements popular at that period. Both great and humble citizens shared the streets, so that humble as well as elaborate homes were studied. Each tour covered a slightly different area, so that there were few overlaps. Park Avenue, bordering Alexandra Park is especially interesting, with details varying from house to house. Many fine house designs are found along the street.

As part of the walking-tour program, an award for preservation and upkeep of their older home was presented to Cliff and Thelma Richardson of 1 Victoria Street (49 Alfred). Here we find a Victorian

Italianate dwelling of special interest to the Conservancy. The owners are choosing to restore this 100 year old-plus building by the laborious method of picking up appropriate parts from wreckers and replacing them on the building. Already porch pillars and cornice brackets have been replaced by this method. An intricate brown and cream colour scheme highlights the details, especially of the brackets.

Built by the Victorian magnate Grobb, the building was enlarged about 1900 with a rear addition containing library and kitchen. Typical turn-of-the-century features here are the low gable peak, neo-Romanesque window-heads, foliate stained-glass and the elaborate "band-shell" porch where restoration of the rail and floor has already taken place. Window-heads for the older section of the home are rounded on the first floor, curved on the second, with incised keystones in the Italianate tradition.



1 Victoria Street (49 Alfred)

Bus Tour

Cambridge was the site of the bus tour this September. A full bus load of Conservancy members and friends enjoyed the tour. Miss Katharine Hebblethwaite of Cambridge and Heritage Cambridge, was the tour guide, while Don Pettitt of the local branch convened the event. Marg Dowden looked after ticket sales. A delicious luncheon was provided by The Mill restaurant in Cambridge.

First stop on the tour was the Gore Mutual Building, built in 1935. The company was established in Cambridge in 1863 after a move from Brantford, where initial establishment was dated 1836. The masonry is of Scottish workmanship. A slide show was presented to the group at the Gore.

Highlights of the slide presentation, and of the later tour were Scott's stone cottage, once a railroad station, Trinity Church built in 1844, its rectory of yellow brick with a centre gable, oriole window and cobblestone wall, the 1857 Christian Science Centre, the John Davidson House in Tudor Manor style, the Old Mill built by Robert Dickson in 1842, the Old

Town Hall built in 1837, the 1914 Armouries, the 1885 Post Office, 1870 Commercial Building, Central Church and 1837 corner Drug Store.

Of particular interest was the house at 127 Jacob Street, built in 1845. John Erb, founder of Preston, had a son Jacob who built the house. The roof is unusual, with a flat top and sloping sides, termed "Jacobean." A double window on the third floor crowns three unusual second-floor windows — two heavily-moulded Venetian windows and a centre window with ogee arch. Decorative bargeboards and hammer beams add distinction to the roofline. There are tall lower windows and an entrance portico with classical pillars.

Brant County Branch at Cambridge

On Saturday, the eleventh of September, members and friends of the Brant County branch of the A.C.O. paid a visit to Cambridge.

They arrived by bus under the guidance of Don Pettitt who had arranged the tour and were received at the offices of the Gore Mutual Insurance Co. by Katherine Hebblethwaite. Don McKay, president of Heritage Cambridge, kindly arranged for us to use the attractive Staff Common Room at the Gore for a slide presentation of the "Galt Walking Tour". This was followed by a visit to the old Galt City Hall (1857) to admire the building and the restoration work of Peter John Stokes completed in 1965. A short tour of the old Assembly Room on the top floor, now used as the Council Chambers for the City of Cambridge was included. From the windows of the chamber we had a good view of the bustling Saturday market in the square below.

After lunch at the lately remodelled Dickson Mill (1842) the group spent the next two hours following part of the route of the "Cambridge Driving Tour" with a running commentary by Katherine Hebblethwaite.

It was impossible to find time to see Hespeler but Preston was explored and part of Galt.

The day was sunny and very warm — too warm to take the planned walking tour in the mid-afternoon. Unfortunately no microphone was provided on the bus, which made the role of commentator rather difficult, but otherwise it was a pleasant day.

The Otto Klotz School, Preston

This little building at 849 Queenston Road in the former town of Preston, was built in 1839 as the village's second school.

Otto Klotz, a German settler and a leader in educational and civic matters, was a member of the first Preston School Board. Later he became secretary-

treasurer and the first local superintendent of school in the area. He was a very early advocate of free public schooling.

The first free school in Upper Canada is thought to have been in this building but although much research has been done, it has not been possible to establish this fact.

When the little school proved too small in 1853, it was bought for a residence by Klotz.

In the space of a hundred and thirty years, until 1979, it was owned by only two families, the Klotz and the Wilsons.

A feature of Heritage Cambridge's "Preston Walking Tour", the old school has been designated for its historical value by the City of Cambridge.



849 Queenston Road, Preston

Tour of the Robert Nixon House, October, 1892

The Branch sponsored 'Heritage Happenings' at the Robert Nixon Home, St. George, recently. The events included a tea, house tour, slides of church architecture, and displays explaining the programs and purposes of the Conservancy. The guests were greeted by Dorothy and Robert Nixon, with their sons, Harry and John, and Mrs. Alice Nixon. Mrs. Evaline Disher, convenor at the Provincial plaque ceremony commemorating the political contributions of the Nixons, Robert and his father, presented on this occasion, on behalf of the Conservancy, an award noting the preservation of the house. Members of the Brant County Branch looked after sales, tickets, organization of the house tour, displays and publicity. About one hundred and fifty people attended, including Howard V. Walker, A.C.O. Council member, and Mrs. Walker.

The Nixon House was built in 1853, in a formal Classical design reminiscent of a Georgian background. Stonemasons from Scotland built the house for Charles and Mary Nixon who purchased the property from William Dickson, who came from Niagara to develop the Townships of South and North

Dumfries. Carefully cut stone in larger section faces the front with ordinary stonework elsewhere and cut stone sills and lintels throughout. The house has a hipped or 'cottage' roof, but the chimneys, provided for stoves becoming popular at this period, would not have been the large stacks characteristic of fireplace heating. A deep frieze below the cornice suggests the later period also. The front has three bays or openings, symmetrically disposed. A verandah, elaborately detailed with slender, chamfered posts, a frieze developed in a lozenge pattern and curved, fretted brackets extends across the front of the house. The centre entrance porch supporting a balcony projecting slightly forward, is more heavily detailed with square columns, and pilasters against the house, all with pedestal bases and inset designs. The entrance doorway forms a notable feature incorporating a transom and sidelights, some of the glass being original with distortions and bubbles signifying its age, and a two panelled door with deep mouldings characteristic of the period. The front is symmetrical, and both ends of the house have four windows, giving front corner rooms both a window to the front and to the side. At the back two other windows favour the dining room and a single window on the other side of the centred back door lights the kitchen: both these rooms also have windows to the side. A former summer kitchen wing has been removed from the rear. However original sash of small panes survive in an upper window at the back of the house. Shutters, now painted brown, still hang, ready for use as sun shades or protection.

The interior of the house is equally interesting, demonstrating a pleasant and comfortable adaptation to present day living while preserving essentially the historical character of the house. The front hall has a simple staircase with a handrail curved at the lower end and supported by a simple turned newel. Portraits on the wall are those of Charles Nixon, builder of the house, and his second wife, Mary Corson. To the right is a family room, sometimes referred to as the den or sitting room. The thick walls are emphasized by deep panelled embrasures framed in moulded architraves. The woodwork here has been stripped to its natural colour and polished, and a corner fireplace has been added. On the other side of the hall is the parlour, again with deep window embrasures, the windows curtained with specially designed sheers. Behind the parlour is the dining room, in part a former pantry where one side of a window is straight, said to have been so built to fit a jelly cupboard. Furniture here includes a buffet with scroll legs, panelled ends and three roomy drawers, and a china cabinet, with lower panels and curved corners, containing goblets and a vase, possibly as early as 1832 and always with the house. Opposite is the modern

kitchen, perhaps the largest room in the house, fitted out to designs of Dorothy Nixon who has enhanced the natural finish of woodwork with plants and interesting kitchen utensils.

The staircase is simple, with square balusters reminding one of earlier times. The bathroom, in a closet at the back of the upper hall, and with the original sash mentioned earlier, is neatly modern. A door, at one time made into a window, at the front of the upper hall leads to the balcony above the entrance. Other improvements, to suit the needs of today, include closets, built-in desks and vanity to replace the cumbersome wardrobes formerly the only storage in Victorian bedrooms. Upstairs the woodwork is simpler than below, but two panel doors and any porcelain knobs characteristic of the period are there.

Throughout the house furnishings compliment the dignified yet sometimes relatively simple interior detail. The home of Dorothy and Robert Nixon demonstrated how successfully modern living can be combined with a mid-Victorian setting, with comfort and convenience alongside family memorabilia. This, with the preservation of the exterior much as it was in the later 1800s, is a particular tribute to the Nixon family, and the reason for the award by the Brant County Branch.



Robert Nixon Home, St. George, Ont.

Photographs by Audrey Scott

Lobbies

The two lobbies which took up much of the Branch's time this summer had to do with Central School, which unfortunately came down the end of July, and the Dufferin Terrace. The Brant County School board decided, behind closed doors, to demolish the school on June 28th. Its decision was a surprise to the local Branch and to the Advisory

Board who had both made representations to the school board, in order to try to save the school. Efforts were made to contact the newspapers, and to give descriptions of the historical and architectural significance of the building and outlining the benefits of a proposed senior citizens centre and residence there. In spite of the involvement of Gerry Musslemann of the Cambridge Branch, who made a presentation to the school board, we were unable to summon any enthusiasm. An injunction was secured by Bob Mac-Millan of the local branch and work was stopped for a few days. However, the injunction was terminated, as there had been a fire in the building. From the Conservancy point of view, not too much damage was done, but the report was that the building had been destroyed by fire and consequently a decision was made to tear it down. The loss of Central School points up the fallacy of having local school boards and City Councils, (the local council had refused to designate the building by a vote of 6 to 4) as watchdogs of our local heritage.

A similar situation has arisen in regard to the Dufferin Terrace area, where a condominium apartment has been proposed for a wooded area adjacent to Dufferin Avenue. The building of the condominium will interfere with traffic patterns and will increase the density of an heritage area as well as leaving open the potential for conversion to multi-family units on the street with absentee landlords. The local branch has been busy lobbying against this development, or attempting to modify the conditions under which it would take place. Again, the City Council has to make the decision about an area of Provincial and National importance. It might be a suggestion that Conservancies lobby the Government in order that some more tenable method of dealing with heritage properties and neighbourhoods be worked out.

HURON COUNTY

Bayfield

Little Inn Verandah Rebuilt

The major restoration project in the small lake-side village of Bayfield this year has been the rebuilding of the two storey verandah on the Little Inn. This small early nineteenth century inn has retained all its historic charm and the project received generous financial assistance from the Ministry of Culture. The original verandah was removed some twenty-five years ago and the new one is a faithful reproduction. On the verandah at ground level is a drinking patio while the second floor is used by the resident guests.

Goderich

Heritage District O.M.B. Hearing Set

A major and hopefully final step is being taken to

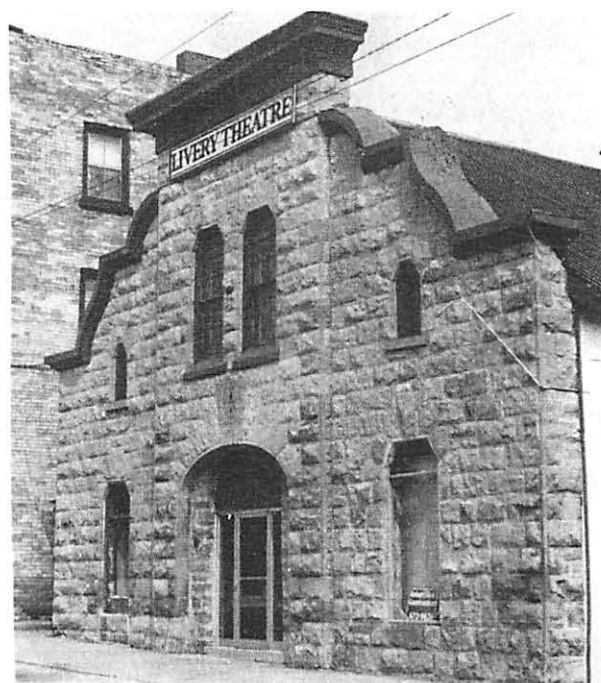


LITTLE INN, Bayfield

designate the central business "Square" of Goderich a Heritage Conservation District when an Ontario Municipal Board hearing is held on November 10. Three written objections have been filed. No objections have been received from the business community whose properties constitute the key conservation area. As a point of interest the Plan started some five years ago!

Library to be Repaired

The Carnegie Library that is situated on one of the eight triangular focal point blocks off the central Square is slated for major maintenance repairs by Town Council. It is in fine shape and has a most handsome interior with a large round reading table in the round tower.



LIVERY THEATRE, Goderich

Downtown Beautification Continues

Another phase of the B.I.A. downtown plan was implemented this summer with the brick paving of sidewalks and installation of new lights on two of the eight radial streets off the central "Square". This is the fourth year improvements have been made and it is surprising how quickly one gets used to quality!

Livery Theatre

The second phase of the restoration of the former livery stable into a theatre has started. Private donations are increasing well and some community events took place this summer. Among other uses the Theatre will become the home of the Goderich Little Theatre.

Clinton

Town Hall and Library to have \$800,000 Restoration

The Clinton Town Council have just recently voted to restore their Town Hall and Library. Both are side by side and front the small Memorial Park. A major cause of concern has been settlement of the buildings over the years and subsequent heaving, cracking and leaning of walls. The town hall is used by the town administration at ground level and on the second floor is a stunning barrel vaulted proscenium arched stage. The library opposite is a substantial and exuberant red brick building with towers, round rooms, projecting gables and the like.

Seaforth

Heritage District Plan Nears Completion

Work on the Heritage District Plan for the downtown business section of Seaforth is nearing completion and the first draft has been released. The main street is one of those rare examples where all the original two storey commercial blocks remain together with an opera house, post office and town hall.

Wingham

Bank Block Designated

A major and arresting historic building on the main street in Wingham is in the process of being designated. This is the former Bank of Hamilton built in 1892. It is a flamboyant red brick structure in the Baronial style. Three members of the A.C.O. visited the building and advised the LACAC on its merit and this was helpful in getting the building designated. At present it is empty and for sale.

Brussels

Commercial Blocks Repaired and Painted

Work began this summer on the exterior restoration of the main commercial blocks in this small village. With a grant from the Federal Government six students were hired for 10 weeks to clean, repair

and paint all the original wood trim, fascias and signs on the façades. The Village Council assisted financially also and the merchants purchased their own materials. A pre-design was followed and a quiet, neat personal result evolved. A small but significant step for a very small rural village.

County

Museum To Move?

A very unexpected situation came up in Huron County Council this Fall, which was a motion to move the famous County Museum from its present location on a former 1860's school in Goderich to the Radar Training School block in the former Air Force Base at Vanastra, near Clinton. The present museum lacks space and fire protection. Goderich protested loudly and after a fiery debate in council it was moved that more information should be sought. The point that took a lot of people by surprise was not so much the need to repair and make safe the existing old museum building, but the thought of moving the museum to a former Air Force Base that is about as far as one could get from a heritage ambience.

A.C.O. Tours — St. Mary's and Kincardine

Members of the A.C.O. made two tours this Fall to the "Stone town" of St. Mary's which is 20 miles north of Stratford and to Kincardine on Lake Huron. Both days were blessed with very warm sunny weather. St. Mary's is really very very beautiful in every respect and well worth a day's visit. It is also a centre of high quality antique stores. Kincardine on Lake Huron was once a centre of furniture making and many of its early brick houses have resplendent woodwork.

NORTH WATERLOO REGION

The summer season was fairly quiet, with one unscheduled activity taking place. We were offered another house. This one was a late Georgian two storey three bay brick house, with a large two-storey brick tail probably of the 1860s, and other additions. It had been vacant for some time. It had already been vandalized; the stair-rail, lights, registers, door knobs, several doors and other material were gone, the kitchen had been wrecked, and most of the windows broken. The owner already had a demolition permit, but was willing to give us salvage rights for the sum of one dollar, for which we had a legal agreement and waiver forms drawn up. This protected both the owner and the branch in the event of an accident. The agreement was to expire at the end of September, giving us approximately seven weeks for salvage work.

The material that was salvaged included several doors, window sash, plywood panelling, baseboards, attic and bedroom floorboards, and several of the very unusual snow-guards from the roof. However, other material, including a maple floor and the tin roof and the roof structure, was lost when a late night fire completely destroyed the building at the end of August.

The moral of this would seem to be that it is important to act quickly when salvage opportunities arise. However, the sadder irony is that the building could possibly have been retained if circumstances had been different. In spite of earlier changes, and later neglect and vandalism, it seemed to be structurally in good shape and in better condition than other houses that are being restored.

On a cheerier note, our annual fall lecture series is under way. As this is written, only the first lecture is complete and we have four more to go. Branch director Don Pullen suggested the format, which is to have people who have restored or rehabilitated their houses discuss their experiences and teach us what they have learned; each lecture is held in the house being discussed. The houses involved range from mid 19th century to Edwardian, and the treatments from restoration to thorough modernization.

Our next event is the 'members only' Christmas Party. This year we are planning a candle-light tour of Woodside, the boyhood home of William Lyon Mackenzie King. Woodside has been restored to the period when King lived there, and is maintained by Parks Canada. Curator Jane Humphries is being most helpful in arranging this event. After Woodside, our party will move on to the home of two of our members, the house whose ceiling stencil was featured in Acorn VII-1.

NEWS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

The New York Academy of Sciences

"Bridge to the Future"

A Symposium Commemorating the Centennial
of the Brooklyn Bridge
May 18-20, 1983

The Barbizon-Plaza Hotel, New York City
sponsored by

Brooklyn Rediscovery,
a program of the Brooklyn Educational & Cultural
Alliance, and the New York Academy of Sciences

For further information, contact: Conference Department, The New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, 212-838-0230.

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE HUMANITIES

Sponsored by

Simon Fraser University and
The University of Western Ontario

February 10-12, 1983

Holiday Inn, Harbourside
Vancouver, British Columbia

It has been something of a commonplace to assume that the humanities are in a state of crisis in contemporary education and in society as a whole. Recent discussion has been filled with such words as "decline", "transformation", "rescue", and so on, to describe what is widely perceived as the problematic state of the humanities.

Yet at the same time Institutes for the Humanities have emerged across North America to formulate creative programs for the study of ethics and values in public policy. There have been moves to link the humanities with other areas of inquiry: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's support for "The Human Context of Science and Technology" is a case in point. As well, there is now recognition that psychologists, anthropologists, sociologists, and geographers have important things to say about aesthetic creativity, conceptual revision, historical inquiry, and education.

We are hoping the Symposium will address these problems and possibilities in frank and open discussion, with the aim of preparing the way for a larger and more comprehensive national humanities conference in 1984. Sponsored by the Humanities Committees at Simon Fraser University and the University of Western Ontario, the Symposium consists of sessions on the following:

- The Humanities and Humanism
- The Institutional Expression of the Humanities
- The Humanities and Popular Culture
- The Humanities in Society
- The Humanities and Humanistic Values
in Canadian Life and Society

HERITAGE OTTAWA

Policy on Federal Heritage Buildings

In a press release dated October 16, 1982 and released from the Heritage Canada Annual General Meeting in Regina, Mr. Denis Ethier, Parliamentary Secretary to the Honourable John Roberts, Minister of the Environment, announced a new federal Policy designed to ensure the conservancy of heritage buildings owned by the Government of Canada.

The policy establishes a Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office, which will make recommen-

dations to the NCC concerning buildings in the National Capital Region and to the Minister of the Environment concerning buildings in other parts of the country.

All federally-owned buildings 40 years old or older will be subject to evaluation. Those with the highest heritage significance will be officially designated as either a classified or a recognized federal heritage building. Special procedures must be followed whenever repair, demolition or ownership change is planned.

The policy recognizes local, regional and provincial attitudes and allows for public input and independent assessment whenever there is disagreement.

Mr. Ethier said "Heritage Buildings are important historical resources for all Canadians. This policy makes the conservation and protection of federally-owned heritage buildings a government objective"

TORONTO HISTORICAL BOARD

Criteria for the Selection of Structures for Inclusion on the Inventory

In a letter from Marcia Cuthbert, of the Historical Preservation Section of the Toronto Historical Board, we were advised that the criteria published in our last issue has been superseded by a revised information sheet, deleting reference to Section 2 of the City of Toronto Act 1967. The revised paragraph reads as follows:

On October 21st, 1974, the Toronto Historical Board adopted the following criteria for the selection of structures for inclusion on the City of Toronto's Inventory of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Importance.

Celebrate Christmas Past

Take time to enjoy a homespun Christmas in two of Toronto's historic homes during the festive season. Relive old-fashioned holiday traditions with a visit to "Victorian Christmas" from November 26 through December, at Mackenzie House, 82 Bond Street (two blocks east of Yonge and Dundas Streets). Cedar ropes entwined with colourful paper chains, strings of cranberries and popcorn bedeck the stairs and fireplaces.

The Kissing Bough... forerunner of the Christmas tree, hangs in the parlour archway, a boxwood sphere trimmed with beaded and hand-stitched ornaments, and a circle of white beribboned candles. On display in the 1850 dining room are festive desserts... mincemeat pie, twelfth night cake, thimble cookies, Christmas pudding with brandy sauce, and shortbread. Refresh your spirits on a winter's day with a sip of cranberry punch while basking in the warmth of the

wood-burning stove in Mrs. Mackenzie's kitchen.

Especially for children is the "Dickens Christmas" at Colborne Lodge in High Park from November 28 to December 31. Memories of Christmas past are preserved with the miniature toys and tiny hand-made bayberry candles adorning the Christmas tree. The aroma of freshly baked treats fill the air... The Christmas tea table is laden with fancy breads, sugar plums, Victoria's pound cake, a porter cake, and cornucopias filled with candy.

COMMENTARY

Travelling about the country, specifically part of Eastern Ontario, recently, searching for mill machinery and investigating mill arrangements demonstrated the sad problem we continue to face because of our lack of attention, and indeed woefully feeble interest in and concern for our remarkable industrial past. (And it was stated by my partner that strange as it may seem our national museum does not denote a special department to either lumbering or the mining industry — two of the essentials of our economic growth and development, and of our social evolution after settlement).

There is regrettably too great a reliance on museum complexes, some call them historic bone-yards, and now a horrifying tendency to trawl the remains of our history by dragnet into theme parks. The danger was alluded to in a recent article in the *Ottawa Citizen* under the Valley byline of Tom Van Dusen. Unfortunately for the proper information of the public, this was rather a one-sided story, (and that sells papers even if they soon turn yellow with age) and proves that reliance on press reports can be damnably misleading. In this particular case Mr. Van Dusen (who looks very young and hearty from his photo inset) has hailed his criticisms like grapes without proper aim and comes out seeming to be rather a large brown blunderbuss. He castigates the Upper Canada Village authorities for taking a special interest in a Metcalfe harness maker's shop, because they wanted to remove it to the Village and remarks that fortunately it has been saved in situ to continue its life where it belongs. What Van Dusen failed to report was that the former owner had shown no interest whatsoever in preserving the structure and the Village people did not wish to see it lost. The new owners however, have taken its preservation on — could the interest of Upper Canada Village have spurred them on?

Wrongly, and rather unjustly, Mr. Van Dusen compares Upper Canada Village's removal of Bellamy's Mill from its North Augusta site to the possible ravages of Renfrew County and adjacent areas to fill out Timbertown, the theme park of lumbering started on the

Ottawa. But Bellamy's Mill had become a hazardous structure and its collapse, if not imminent, a matter of a very short time, and its restoration in North Augusta would not have been contemplated because of the costs involved. Its preservation some years before had not stayed its gradual ruin, and there was never any intention to restore it as a working mill by the former owner.

Agreed, that preserving buildings of our industrial past on their original sites is highly commendable. But it must be remembered how few are capable of being restored to working order, and sustained in that condition. The majority become the subject of sympathetic recycling and the most that is left is an exterior resembling the often changed building (due to fires, rebuilding and later improvements) and perhaps a few vestiges still exposed of internal structure. Taking into account the present state of preservation torpidity, chronic economic embarrassment and one has to view the saving, reconstructing and interpretation of Bellamy's Mill at Upper Canada Village as a working flour milling operation to be a blessing, and mercies such as this are small indeed these days.

But the *Citizen* article does highlight the abysmal neglect that saddens the heart of anyone interested in preserving demonstrable original industrial sites which now are too few and far between. One such is Balaclava, a hamlet on Highway 513 near Dacre, Ontario in the south-west corner of Renfrew County. Here still stands a sawmill, almost complete in its machinery and equipment, water-driven, and capable with minimal repair of being put into operation again to demonstrate the full range of lumbering processes from sawing to planing, from shingle to lath making. True the mill started on the site perhaps in the late 1850s or early 60s and has been modernized continually since, but that story of evolution is equally precious to preserve. Until fifteen years ago it was fully operable; only last year the planer was taken elsewhere and put to work again. The site with its sawdust burner on an island in the creek, and its lumber shed and yard adjacent is still relatively complete and the present owner, Mr. Dick, has maintained the roofs on the mill. But as parts decay and become unsafe he has to remove these and year by year a little more disappears, yet he is still there to remember what it used to be. Perhaps the most tragic aspects of the story is the reason for the mill's ceasing operations — it was too labour-intensive! (What a thought in these days of high unemployment). Producing about ten thousand board feet of lumber a day it required ten hands to run it: ten men at today's wages soon eat up the profits of lumbering in a small community. So the quest was for greater efficiency, modernization, even automation — and a lesser need

for hands. So too a greater search for timber and the right to cut, and Mr. Dick saw his timber limit being taken away because he had no longer used it and sold the right to another firm. That, of course, is not the end of the story: the larger competitors gobble up the smaller firms, often assisted by attractive loan arrangements and government sponsorship to develop this primary industry. But when the export market shrinks, and the local market cannot absorb the surplus created, there is no flexibility to adapt to the change. The money tied up in plant and the increasing costs of keeping going, especially from a borrowing position may lead to financial collapse — all work lost and idle plant, to the taxpayers' debit possibly. A smaller mill, employing several hands, could more easily adapt to the changing economy and recession, yet continue to produce for the local area and a less extensive market particularly if it decided to specialize in certain woods or wood products.

What is the fate of the Balaclava Mill? The ideal would be to restore it to working order as a demonstration of lumbering in the area. The building is historically significant both from the point of view of our industrial heritage, and also as an example of its type. We will have the mill owner, Mr. Dick to help us too. And that is not all, for Balaclava comprises too a blacksmith shop and a general store, with ice house attached (privately owned and no longer in use) in addition to the miller's house, outbuildings and a large barn as well as several houses, although one, built about 1910 has suffered a serious fire recently, and another log house was sold to be re-erected near Toronto. The whole complex is a microcosm, real and relatively intact, of our lumbering background. But all that can be contemplated is to put Timbertown in touch, for the machinery alone perhaps, for the removal of lock, stock, barrel and building would suffer immeasurably in any relocation and adaptation. Do you want to join the Balaclava Mill Foundation? For sure you would have the full support of Mr. Van Dusen and the *Ottawa Citizen*.

One final plea — and perhaps the last — for yet another site which we first viewed with awe and excitement some twenty years ago, namely Herron's Mills, north of Lanark, where the famous Ottawa Valley firm founded by the Gillies family first set up a lumbering business. (For further interesting information try to find a copy of *A Hundred Years A'Fellin* by Charlotte Whitton). The 1861 Gillies House of sawmill plank construction (one inch thick plank laid one on top of another to form walls), with its striking fanlighted doorway is still there and well kept. But alas the mill buildings, clustered below the dam on the Clyde, which included grist mill, oat kiln, sawmill, carding mill and outbuildings are rapidly falling

into ruin as roofs are holed and timber relentlessly decays. Yet it was so complete, and still is, but in a much more dilapidated state, and several efforts have been made over the last twenty years to stimulate the preservation of this remarkable site. The barns and other buildings too, so much part of the holding are in a perilous state and older houses, probably for mill workers originally, are vacant. The present owners are aging, and any approach must be not only tactful but helpful. This is truly an emergency situation — The Herron's Mills Foundation is a must today if anything of the place is to be saved for tomorrow. Your help and interest would indeed be a great benefit — and again you should be assured of the *Ottawa Citizen's* Mr. Van Dusen's good press. Otherwise we shall indeed be sorry — for despite all interest it will have to be to Timbertown for us — to view the remains.

FUTURE EVENTS

The ACO is planning, as part of its 50th Anniversary, bus tour to groups of interesting communities in Southern Ontario. The routes have not been planned in detail but one will take place in southwestern Ontario and another in Eastern Ontario, both areas where early buildings and settlements provide some fascinating comparisons. The tour leader is expected to be Peter John Stokes, the times early and mid-summer. So far the limit for numbers has not been stated, but presumably it will be to busload multiples. Nor has the final price to include travel and accommodation been worked out. However, if you are interested and would like to be kept informed, please write to: A. K. Sculthorpe, R.R. 3, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3V7.

RAILWAY STATIONS

Canadian Pacific plans to demolish at least five stations in Ontario alone — in Mississauga, Toronto, Chatham, Nipigon and Renfrew. Mississauga officials planned to meet with CP representatives to stop the proposed demolition of the Streetsville station, built in 1914. Since 1970 it has been used as a freight office. C.P. has a standing policy to sell old stations for \$1., but the costs associated with removing the buildings are usually too high for most groups. A similar battle has been going on for almost a year to save the 80 year old Toronto West Junction station. The Toronto Junction Historical Society wants the station preserved for use as a farmers' market. CN has also been removing stations, but has been more cooperative with citizens' groups lobbying to preserve them. (*Toronto Star*, Sept. 13, 1982)

Mary Campbell, representative of the East Toronto

and Beaches Historical Society writes that in spite of all their efforts to preserve the Norway Post Office. 314-322 Kingston Road, the two OMB members hearing the case deliberated very briefly then stated that though they were prepared to believe in the historical worth of the buildings, they felt that the property (approximately 1.5 acres) was "ripe for development", and that it would be much more attractive to a prospective buyer with the buildings removed. (*Ward 9 News*, Sept. 21, 1982)

HELPFUL HINTS

Now that winter is upon us and the need to conserve energy and save its cost presses hard on everyone a gentle word of warning should go to those who have an old building not used during the cold months of the year. If the building has a basement at least keep a modicum of heat on there, enough to maintain a steady temperature, particularly during cold snaps of 4°C (40°F) and ranging generally between 7-10°C (45° to 50°F). While the rest of the building may suffer some superficial damage such as peeling wallpaper and paint and cracking plaster if it is not heated, a basement left unheated could result in frost heaving foundations to cause permanent structural damage to walls and internal supports. Such damage is extremely costly to repair and may necessitate complete rebuilding in some cases.

Protect first the most vulnerable areas such as the exterior cellarway: this should be filled with insulation — even straw, loose being more effective, but baled more than adequate, but put a weatherproof, or at least waterproof cover over it, such as a sheet of heavy black plastic held down by boards. Insulate the inside of the cellar door and fill the window recesses with thick insulating batts. For it is through such openings that frost penetrates to the interior. (It may have happened before if cracks below windows and around cellar doors show). Bales of straw around the outside of the foundation will also help, but if you have a frame building make sure that you staple a heavy sheet of tarpaper (or secure it with narrow boards to the wood) or black plastic film to the woodwork and drape this around the bales to prevent water and snow getting between the bales and the wood.

So far as heaters go, a lamp bulb or two may be sufficient: check occasionally during winter to see how these perform. Alternatively thermostatically controlled fan heaters or radiant bar types may be suitable. Make sure however that these are above water level if the basement occasionally floods in spring, and also that wiring and connections are competently done by a good electrician, who should also check that circuits are adequate. Heating a base-

ment electrically is one way to use up your minimum billing during the months you are absent.

However you may wish to run the furnace at a low temperature to benefit the whole building, but remember if you come for the occasional weekend and rapidly heat it up to a comfortable fug you may cause problems for such sudden changes are hard on finishes, woodwork and plaster as well as furnishings. Many a country church suffers from this treatment.

If, however, you do not intend to heat the basement at all then you must maintain additional precautions. If the basement is dry you could use loose straw piled against the outside walls, *and* around any internal walls or posts, for frost could penetrate to the centre of the basement. If there is a concrete floor this should be covered too with straw. If dampness is to be expected then thick cellular plastic insulation, Styrofoam or similar, could be used. Sheets should be tightly fitted and weighted down with stones or bricks and plank walks put across for access to equipment or different areas needing periodic checking. The plastic sheets should be carried up the wall about 600mm (2'-0"). We assume, of course, that you have drained the plumbing systems, put antifreeze in the traps of fixtures (including the john), and have disconnected the pressure system, draining the tank, but protecting the inlet with insulation and if need be an electrical tracer cable wrapped around the incoming pipe to prevent it from freezing. Such protection may be more tiresome and more costly than it is worth, but remember if you enjoy electricity the rest of the year, you have to pay that minimum billing whether you use it or not and this may be more economical.

Finally — come spring, as, thank God, it always does, even in Canada — do not forget to remove the straw, unblock the openings and leave the basement windows open, but screened from insects and protected from entry. So, until the bloodroot stars again — keep the basement warm. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

EDITOR'S NOTE RE BUS TOURS

If it is your responsibility to order a bus for a tour, be sure to see that there is a P.A. system provided. It has been brought to our attention that on several tours this had not been supplied, with the result that those in the back seats did not hear the guide, and by the end of the tour the guide was not only exhausted but had lost his voice.

It is simply a matter of asking for this service when the order for a bus is given. There is no extra charge for this, but it makes all the difference to the guide and those on the tour.

UPDATE ON TRIP TO GREECE

Because of the enthusiastic response to the article in the last ACORN about the Greek Islands trip, the Conservancy has decided to sponsor this tour.

We are moving full speed ahead with our plans, offering enriching features that are missed by standard tours. For instance, did you know of the Vorres private museum that began as a collection of traditional artifacts in a preserved village estate near Athens? It now has become a foundation that has been donated to the state. Its last addition for the exhibition of Contemporary Greek Art was inaugurated by President Karamanlis three months ago. Vorres is a writer, businessman and reporter for the Canadian Press.

Want to join us? Our space is limited. For further details write to Pat Rosebrugh, R.R. #1, Branchton. Telephone 519-621-9276.

AROUND AND ABOUT:

Happenings in Ontario

PORT HOPE

A party of students, over sixty strong, enjoyed a brisk cool weekend in mid November to measure façades of buildings along the side streets of downtown Port Hope. The results will be made available to the Port Hope LACAC which, under the direction of Mel Chappel, the Chairman, provided all local arrangements from press coverage, ladder carrying, negotiations for special rates at the Greenwood Motor Inn to a welcome Saturday's supper and Sunday lunch at Penryn Park. Saturday was the principal field day for survey-work, but some students felt obligated to finish on Sunday morning. Mrs. Chapple also arranged for visits to houses during one of the Sunday walking tours — Dunain, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Redner, the Octagon with the understanding of the Wilson family, and the Bluestone with Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Rumgay. It was an enjoyable weekend and we learnt once again how many lessons in building, architecture and town design Port Hope offers, even to a young or casual observer.

PORT HOPE LACAC NEWS

BRIC

About 40 people gathered in the Council Chambers to hear Richard Ungurman, technical consultant for the Building Rehabilitation Improvement Campaign (BRIC) explain both the designated property and the corporate sector grants. Approximately 25 properties are now designated in Port Hope with others in the process.

Port Hope has entered into an agreement with the

Province to enable us to participate in this programme. Three applications have now been approved by LACAC for designated property grants and one Corporate Sector Grant was granted earlier this year.

Heritage Conservation District

Now that the official plan has been amended to include a Heritage Policy Statement, LACAC is ready to begin the district study. Much of this work has already been completed in the form of the published Architectural and Historical Inventory (Walton Street). Copies of this can be obtained by writing M. E. Chapple, 322 Ridout Street, Port Hope. The cost is \$5.00, plus \$1.00 handling charge.

UPPER CANADA VILLAGE

Last issue's cover is taking shape in Upper Canada Village — the stone walls of Bellamy's Mill are rising once again due to the efforts of CDS Contractors and Engineers of Whitby, the general contractor for the project and a crew of ten masons, mostly from the Spencerville area not far from the original site of the mill at North Augusta. Much of the costly preparatory work on the site will never be seen, but the mill is being rebuilt to last for more than the century and a half it had already survived, latterly in a much dilapidated state threatening to collapse because of insecure foundations, undermining and frost damage. Its dismantling sadly removed the hub of an old village, but it had ceased to operate long ago and had deteriorated to become a dangerous structure. At least it could be saved, has been reused or has formed patterns for renewed work, and Bellamy's Mill reconstructed will appear much like the original. Supplementing machinery salvaged from other abandoned mills unlikely ever to be operating again, and often impossible to consider restoration in situ, Bellamy's mill will demonstrate flour milling by the old methods for visitors to Upper Canada Village to watch and enjoy.

ZION

A group from the University of Waterloo were given the task of measuring the Dickinson House near Zion Church in Hope Township. The building has been vacant for over forty years and its future is uncertain. A fascinating composite starting as a small storey and a half design into the last 1830s or early 40s, the house became a strange steep roofed mid-Victorian form with what appear to be immensely high rooms upstairs. Steeply sloping ceilings give a vault-like effect — the principal bedroom was decorated with marbled walls. Studies and measured drawings will be made available to the ACO, Port Hope Branch.

HAMILTON

Mr. David C. Rollinson has been appointed the first curator of the 1859 Hamilton Pump House which is located on Woodward Avenue and still forms part of the Waterworks property.

The Pump House, originally built in 1859 to meet the danger of cholera epidemics, served Hamiltonians daily until 1910 and then intermittently until 1938. Now that it has a full time curator, the Pump House which is operated by the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, will soon be open to the public on a regular basis.

GLENMORE

It is always a delight to come across a building at the end of a road drawing one on to investigate it in detail. This farmstead at Glenmore in Augusta Township, Grenville County, is one such joy, but just around the corner, and you see it from the northern approach, in an even greater surprise. (See notes on the cover picture.) Occasionally a church is placed in a similar relationship, we can think of one at North Pelham, another in Picton, and two or more in Guelph, especially the Church of Our Lady. Or occasionally a spire atop a mount like Maryhill (formerly New Germany) in Waterloo. Finally one remembers Port Hope's downtown and the streets which at Walton with buildings to close the view — what a special visual treat — and needless to say advantage was often taken of the architectural opportunity. Since you may still be reading, yet the subject may have changed a little, it is still on the lesson that our building can teach us. For instance, Port Hope's ornamental corner treatments, in curved brickwork or recesses shows how to turn other than a right angled corner and get away with it. (In the monstrous modern T.D. Bank corner the designer fluffed it and made a right angle of the brick work and canted the window beyond in a miserable twist). And yet another point — the scale and height of buildings related to street width: Walton at sixty-six feet more or less (the old chain right of way) looks eminently grand, but not foreboding with three to four storey buildings alongside, whereas John Street's forty feet can barely stand three storey buildings — compare these to Guelph's wide Wyndham where the three storey façades hardly form an adequate frame to the street. Collingwood does not suffer so from the low buildings along Hurontario Street for your attention is riveted on the hill taking shape at the end of the street, and the plan is now also softened by the new landscape along the pavement. (Guelph's main street might well benefit from a Champs Elysee treatment).

According to Mrs. Bruce Connell, Maynard, the

early meetings of council were held in different places in the township. To choose a new location to satisfy all is difficult, so a cross appears to have been drawn



The farmstead at the end of the road, Glenmore, Augusta Township. In 1858 this was the house of Benjamin Throop.

from the corners of the municipality. And Glenmore was the centre. On a motion of council in the early months of 1858, a half acre site on the corner opposite Benjamin Throop (pronounced Troop) was selected. The building was constructed by John Row for \$2,100, including benches to be turned over complete in December 1858. The money for it came from an unappropriated clergy reserve fund. The cost of maintaining the hall including a supply of wood for heating for the year 1859 was \$9.50!

ORANGEVILLE

The Town of Orangeville loses key buildings at main intersection

In September of this year, The Bank of Commerce demolished two handsome three storey buildings at the main intersection of the town's shopping core. The main building was built in the 1870's. It was originally Endicott's Dry Goods Store. In 1915, the building was bought by the Bank of Hamilton and the shop windows were altered. Eventually the Bank was



Orangeville's main street with Bank of Commerce in centre.

absorbed by the Bank of Commerce. The adjoining building also now demolished by the Bank had interesting windows on the second floor and a false third floor with "blind windows, maintaining the typical three storey street frontage.

Typical of the arguments put forward to justify demolition, the bank reported "it's over one hundred years old and at the back you can see where the brick is crumbling away". Again, typically, although the upper two floors appeared to be empty, the bank stressed the need for a new building to overcome cramped floor space and counting rooms in a damp basement.



Orangeville, Bank and adjoining dark brick structure demolished September '82.

The result for the streetscape of Orangeville will be disastrous. The three storey main shopping area has already been marred by a Toronto-Dominion Bank adjacent to the City Hall and by the recent Royal Bank inserted between the rather playful façade of the Grand Central Hotel and the modestly Beaux Artes Carnegie Library.

Due to local reaction to the Royal Bank's initial plans, their new building was redesigned to at least recognize its neighbours and to eliminate the proposed driveway abutting the library. It is to be hoped that the newest bank will also be designed with some sympathy to its surroundings. This *would* be some small consolation for the needless demolition of a historic structure which formed a key element of Orangeville's business core.

W. Moffet

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Iron

Cast and wrought iron in Canada from the seventeenth century to the present. By Eric Arthur and Thomas Ritchie.

This volume is a tribute to the ironmasters — men of persistence, determination, and inventiveness, who have been little recorded or recognized; to the craftsmen whose high standards of design and fabrication

allowed beauty to touch what could have been mundane — kettles, pots, sugar tongs, and above all, the stoves for which Canada is famous; and finally, to the worker in wrought iron whose creations reached a pinnacle in the magnificent fence enclosing the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

Downtown Walkabout

Published by the Guelph Arts Council, this book is the second in a series of walking tours devoted to the architectural and historical significance of Guelph's interesting old buildings. It is by Gordon Couling, Guelph architectural historian.

Copies are available from the Guelph Arts Council, 21 King Street, Guelph N1E 4P5. \$2.00 per copy for orders of ten or more. \$3.00 per copy.

The Governor's Road

Early buildings and families from Mississauga to London — Mary Byers and Margaret McBurney. Photographs by Hugh Robertson.

In 1793 Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe ordered a road cut through the wilderness of Upper Canada — a military link westward from Lake Ontario and a spur to settlement. *'The Governor's Road'* it was called, partly in derision, for its path was narrow and winding, beset with stones and stumps. But the settlers did come: they and their buildings are the subject of this book.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A report of the Annual General Meeting will appear in our next issue.

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS BOOKLET

Marion Garland's Architectural Terms booklet is now being handled by Shirley R. H. Vernon, 44 Deblaquiere Street North, Port Hope, Ont. L1A 2K9. They are once more being sold for \$1.00. On orders of 20 or more the price is 75 cents. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope, business size.

Please send any change of address to your branch secretary and also to Mrs. Margaret Wulff, A.C.O., 191 College Street, Toronto, M5T 1P7. In this way it can be put on the master mailing list.

ACO's Address: 191 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P7
All submissions to ACORN please send to Editor-in-Chief, ACORN,
86 Augusta St., Port Hope, Ontario L1A 1G9

The Cover continued:

You guessed! Yes it looks like a railway station, it might have been an early abandoned spur of the Grand Trunk (for its wide eaves and low pitched roof smack of the Italinate design of Peto, Brassey and Betts or their successors such as that at St. Marys Junction). But it is not an abandoned station and so preserved.

Pictured on the cover is the old Town Hall of Augusta Township in Grenville County, just north-east of Brockville. The date of construction is 1858, hence the Grand Trunk station design may well have been an influence. Located in the geographic centre of Augusta Township, so that it was equidistant from all four corners, it has survived at a road junction known on the map as Glenmore. From the west one enjoys the farmstead at the end of the road, the stone house a focal point, and another house hides the hall. The view is from the farmer's front yard, but coming from the north this sudden apparition is the surprise of the century. Worthy of preservation — we think so not only for its architectural merit and specialty, but for its utterly democratic and thoroughly political location — for the main centre of population is along the 'Front' (The St. Lawrence River) and naturally the municipal offices for practical reasons moved to be closer to the action.

HIS KINDNESS AND PRIDE

We cannot close this issue of ACORN without sharing two of the many memories of Eric Arthur that keep cropping up in our mind.

One was a letter from him congratulating us on ACORN. He said that when he looked back on the very modest beginnings of the ACO, the fact that we now had a little magazine thrilled him. The other is also a letter written to us just after the bookmarks were printed. He wrote in his tiny neat style, and commented on what a very good idea it was, and sent money for some to be sent to him. He mentioned that he often had three books on the go and was always in need of markers. Both very short letters, but his kindness shone through, as well as his pride in the Conservancy.

POSTES CANADA POSTAGE

No. 183
PORT HOPE, ONT.

